

**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
HEALTH REGULATION AND LICENSING ADMINISTRATION**

Fact Sheet: Trash Storage

Did You Know? Smell is one of a rodent's most important sense. Rodents have the ability to gnaw through concrete, heavy metal, and brick. Rodents can jump 3 ft. vertically and 4 ft. horizontally. Rodents are known to be vectors of 35 diseases worldwide. Improper trash or garbage storage provides places for rodents to eat and live.

Improper Trash Storage/Facility



Proper Trash Storage/Facility



FACT: Failure to keep waste container lids closed at all times & failure to remove trash or refuse from premises are violations of DC Law punishable with a \$500.00 fine.

Recommendations

- Install & utilize trash compactors.
- Utilize heavy duty plastic trash containers.
- Always use undamaged trash containers.
- Dispose of food waste in a garbage disposal.
- Store waste containers at least 4 ft. away from walls, fences, or other structures.

For more information, please contact the
Division of Food at

food.safety@dc.gov